

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA-2761

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Towson Quad

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 720 Dunkirk Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland 21212 county Baltimore County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John Stuart Ward and Ruth M. Ward, his wife.

street & number 720 Dunkirk Road telephone no.: 410-377-6621

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21212

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 7921

street & number folio 484

city, town Towson Baltimore, state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-2761

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR OF HOUSE

The house, 720 Dunkirk Road, is a two story brick colonial revival house built in 1938. The fenestration is simple and restrained. There is a strong tie to its earlier c.1920's bungalow neighbors. The house can be described as an expanded brick version of a bungalow with a slate roof. A one story, 1-car garage is attached to the west wall, with a driveway from the street. An aluminum sided shed dormer extends the width of the house on the 2nd level, the roof forming a band of slate between the first and second levels. The basement level is stucco. There are aluminum storm windows of an unknown date. The house two doors to the west (716 Dunkirk) is a mirror image of the same model.

The front of the house faces south. The south facade is two bays wide. The shed dormer contains two single 6/6 windows centered over the door and the double 6/6 window on the first floor. A single window is at the basement level. The entry door is on the left, with a small gable front, porch with two round columns. There a single central brick chimney.

The east facade has two basement windows, two 6/6 windows on the first level, two 6/6 windows on the second, and a 6/6 window at the attic.

The north facade begins at grade. It has two window wells, two 6/6 windows and a center 4 pair over 2 panel door on the first level, and two 6/6 windows on the second. A one story open porch covers a cement patio for the eastern half of the house. The square columns of the porch and the eaves are aluminum clad. The porch ceiling is probably the original two inch wide tongue and groove panelling, stained natural finish. There is a solid passage door to the garage.

The west facade has a single 6/6 window on the first level, two 6/6 windows on the second, and a 6/6 window at the attic.

### DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR OF HOUSE

Most of the original fabric of the house is intact and remains. There are oak hardwood floors and plaster walls. The original wood windows, doors, and interior trim are all painted. There is no evidence of insect, water, or structural damages or changes.

The floor plan is open and flows from one room to another. The house is two rooms deep. All the stairs are on the western wall of the house. All the plumbing is lined up in the northwest corner of the house.

From the front door, one walks directly into the living room, and can see directly to the rear of the house which contains a small hallway and the kitchen. The dining room is to the rear on the right. The living room extends the entire width of the house, contains a fireplace (non-working) with a painted brick surround and painted mantel. The kitchen floor plan is small. There is one wall of original painted wood cabinets and counter space, a doorway to the rear hall, and a doorway to the dining room.

## 7.1

DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR OF HOUSE, cont.  
720 Dunkirk Rd, Baltimore, Md 21212

The front/south half of the basement is a finished clubroom. The ceiling consists of twelve inch square panels. The knotty pine panelling covers all four walls, from floor to ceiling, and is painted white. There is a working fireplace with a brick surround and a simple mantle shelf.

The back half of the basement is an unfinished utility/laundry room with a half-bath in the northwest corner. The foundation walls are covered with stucco. The original support beams and diagonally laid subfloor are exposed. The laundry area has the original set of concrete laundry tubs. There is the original (coal?) Weil McLain Co. oil boiler No 67.

The second floor consists of three bedrooms of diminishing size, a hallway, and a bath. The bath has the original white 6" x 3" ceramic tiles, with a black ceramic tile border, on the wainscoting and tub surround.

There is a walk-up finished (unheated) attic accessed from the southwest bedroom. The attic is 6' high at the ridge and has a pine floor. The central brick chimney is exposed.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2761

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Anneslie is a neighborhood of moderately priced middle class detached houses in the northeast suburbs of Baltimore, approximate five and one-half miles from the Inner Harbor. The Baltimore County Seat and Court House of Towson (established 1854) is one mile to the north. Govans (Govanstown, established 1755), lies directly to the south. The subject house, 720 Dunkirk Avenue, is significant in that it was one of the few houses built at the end of the economic depression and before World War II.

The northeast area of Baltimore between the Jones Falls and Herring Run was part of about a dozen colonial land tracts called Britain's Ridge. By the late 19th century, the land had been further subdivided into numerous scattered estates.

Villa Anneslie, the old Birkhead residence, built c.1870, in the Italianate style, is located on the 500 block Dunkirk Road. It was the original 95 acre estate from which the lots for the neighborhood of Anneslie were subdivided and developed between the wars (1922-1945), by Charles H. Steffey Company. The age of the "comfortable house" was in full swing for the middle class. The houses were all built with indoor plumbing and central heat using city water, gas, sewerage. Other city amenities consisting of sidewalks, street lights, fire plugs, and macadam or concrete streets were/are included. There are a few houses built in the 1970's next to Villa Anneslie.

The Anneslie neighborhood lies on the east side of the 6500 - 6800 blocks of York Road. The 6400 block of York Road is the Baltimore City/County line established in 1918. It was one of the first "subdivisions" built in Baltimore County. To the west of York Road is the neighborhood of attached/row houses built c.1937-1955 of Rodgers Forge. The houses on the south side of Regester Avenue are part of Anneslie. The north side of Regester begins the neighborhood of detached houses (built c.1920-1950) of Stoneleigh. The major streets of Murdock, Dunkirk, Anneslie and Overbrook roads run east/west parallel to Regester Avenue and intersect York Road.

The lots in Anneslie are equal size: a rectangular 50' X 125', each with a driveway. Most of the lots have chain link and/or wood fences along the property lines. The landscaping is well established and studded with large deciduous trees. The streetscape is a long, narrow avenue consisting of a graded, curb, a 4' strip of grass, often with trees, a sidewalk, and the consistent set back and rhythm of one and a half and two story houses.

8.1 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, Cont.  
720 Dunkirk Rd, Baltimore, MD 21212  
Anneslie Neighborhood

York Road is and has been a heavily travelled and significant corridor from downtown Baltimore to York, Pennsylvania. York Road, laid out in 1741 and previously called Britain's Ridge Rolling Road, and also the Yorktown Turnpike, follows the path of an early Indian trail. The number eight bus route continues to follow the previous number eight street car line. Many of the residential buildings along York Road are used for commercial purposes and are mixed in with to the numerous commercial buildings along York Road. The Anneslie/Drumcastle and York Road Plaza are the two main shopping centers located in the 6300 and 6400 Blocks of York Road.

Saint Pius 10th Roman Catholic church and rectory, 6428-6432 York Road, are stone structures built c.1957. A large two story brick school (k-8) and convent are to the rear of the property. This is a large and active parish of 3000 families which originated as a mission of St. Mary's Parish, 5500 York Road, Govans. There are protestant churches in the surrounding areas. Central Presbyterian and Ascension Lutheran, located in the 7300 and 7400 blocks of York road, are the largest.

This property and the Anneslie neighborhood are important to the community planning and preservation efforts of both Baltimore City and County. The City/County line separates and has repercussions for a great many people. For many, it is a "Berlin Wall". However, there is no physical wall. There is one metropolitan area of concerns and issues which impact people the same on all sides. The older residential and commercial sections are all in danger of neglect and flight of people to other areas further out into Baltimore County and even Carroll and Harford Counties. Future planning and conservation efforts should include close-in/walking distance neighborhoods such as Anneslie.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-2761

Brochure from Charles H. Steffey Company, Baltimore, MD, 1929.

Lewand, Karen. Beirne, D. Randall, Editor. North Baltimore: From Estate to Development. Baltimore, City Planning and University of Baltimore, 1989.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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F 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Norma M. Secoura, Realtor and student

organization Goucher College

date 12-8-94

street &amp; number Dulaney Valley Road

telephone 410-252-9071

city or town Baltimore, MD 21286

state \_\_\_\_\_

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

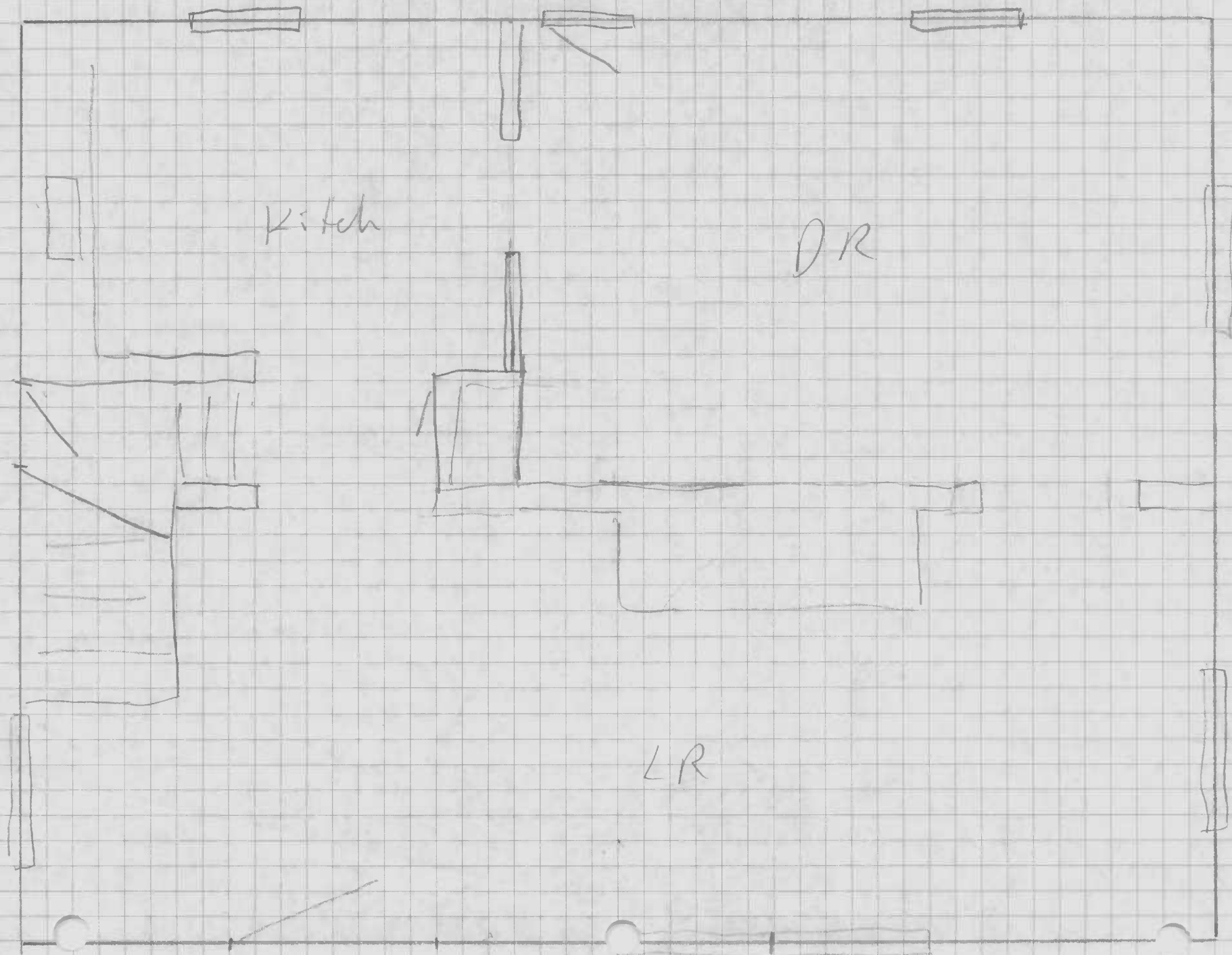
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

PS-2746

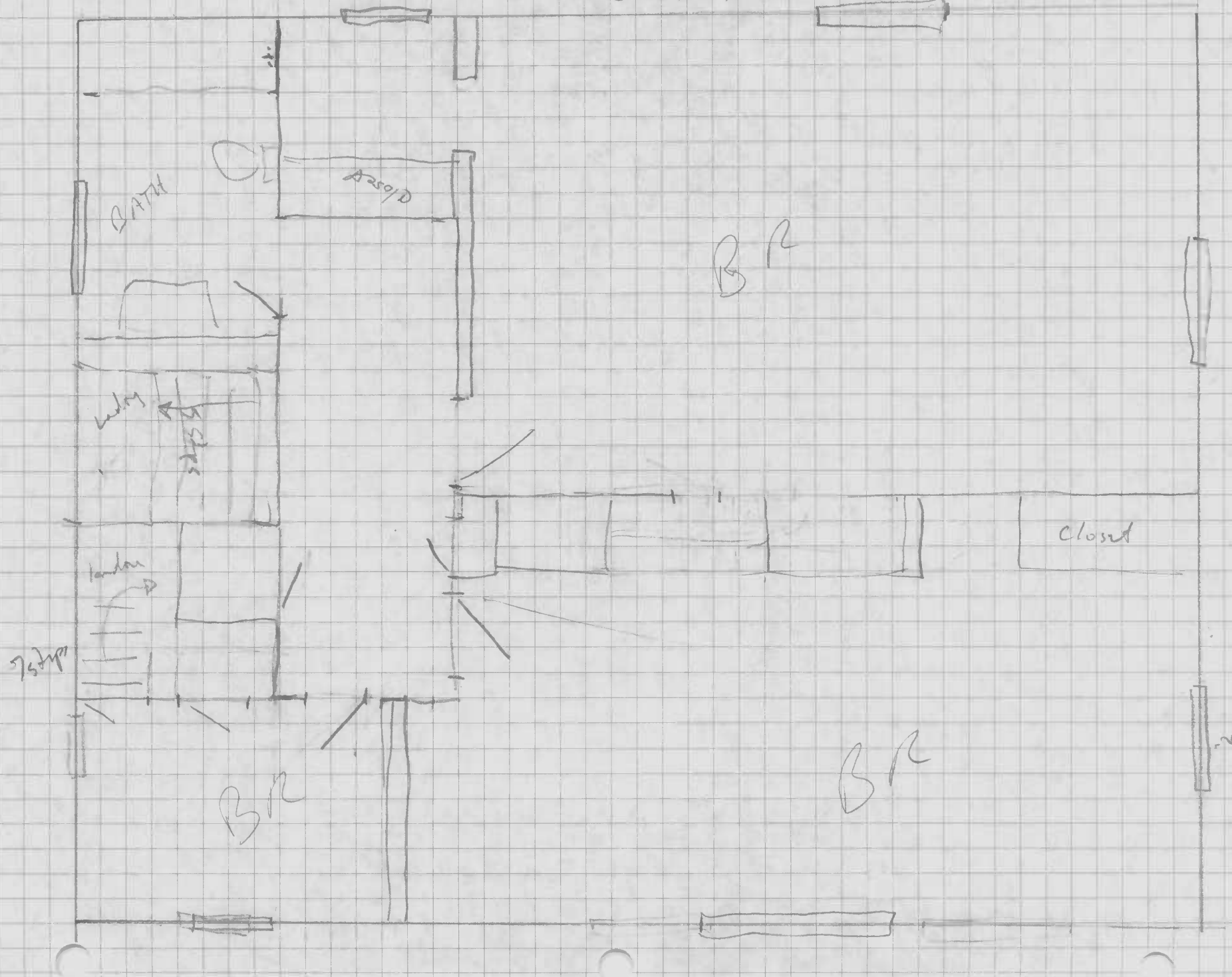
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720 Dunkirk Baltimore 01212



BA-2761

700 Dunleirk Rd Baltimore 21212







BA-2761

Joins Map 35

MD GRID 920.000 FT

37°30'

BA-276'

# CATALOG OF PHOTOS, NOVEMBER 1994.

Photographer: Norma M. Secoura

1. Looking at northeast corner of 6700 block York Road and Dunkirk Road.
2. Looking west on 400 block Dunkirk Road from 6700 block York Road. Rodgers Forge Neighborhood. The 2 1/2 story row houses Keelty Company built, 1938-1939.
3. Looking east on 500 block Dunkirk Road from 6700 block York Road. Anneslie Neighborhood. The individual houses were built/developed by Charles H. Steffey Company 1923-1941.
4. Villa Anneslie built c.1870, 600 block Dunkirk Road. It was the original estate that the from which the lots for the neighborhood of Anneslie were subdivided.
5. South facade. 720 Dunkirk Road. Two story brick and frame house built 1938.
6. 716, 718, 720, and 722 Dunkirk Road. Note that 716 is the exact mirror of 720 Dunkirk.
7. North/rear facade. 720 Dunkirk Road.
8. Rear porch. 720 Dunkirk Road.
9. Rear yard. 720 Dunkirk Road.
10. Rear yard. 720 Dunkirk Road. Note brick Bar-b-Que in corner.
11. Back of Bar-b-Que. Northeast corner of 720 Dunkirk Road.  
Rear gate of chain link fence to 7-- Regester Avenue.
12. Interior: Living Room and staircase. 720 Dunkirk Avenue.
13. Original kitchen cabinets. 720 Dunkirk Road.
14. Painted knotty pine Clubroom with brick fireplace. 720 Dunkirk Road.
15. Original (coal?) Weil McLain Co. oil boiler No 67. Utility Room in basement. 720 Dunkirk Road.
16. Master bedroom and walk-in closet. 720 Dunkirk Road.
17. Second floor landing/hall and stairwell. 720 Dunkirk Road.
18. Original floor and wall tile. Main Bath. 720 Dunkirk Road.
19. Attic and central brick chimney. 720 Dunkirk Road.
20. Anneslie. 6500 block York Road.
21. Saint Pius 10th Roman Catholic Church & Rectory. School (K-8) & convent in rear.  
6428-6432 York Road.



BA-2761

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Baltimore, Md.



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